Report Submitted by the Working Group on Border Management

3092. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether working groups of border management has submitted report to Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken by Government on the basis of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Border Management Group has identified infiltration of foreign nationals, smuggling, cross border movement of drugs and narcotics substances and cross border movement of terrorists and insurgents as major problems and has recommended a systematic and multidimensionals approach. The measures taken to check infiltration from bangladesh includes:—

(i) Intensification of border patrolling and surveillance by the Border Security Force;

(ii) Erection of OP Towers along the border for better observation.

(iii) Troops deployed on the border have been supplied with night vision devices, binoculars, goggles, twin telescope, hand held search lights etc.

(iv) Country/Moter boats have been provided for border patrolling in riverline areas;

(v) Speeding up the project to construct roads and fence along sensitive stretches of Indo-Bangladesh border;

(vi) Sanction of the Scheme of Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners and Mobile Task Force in the affected States; and

(vii) Introduction of the Scheme to issue identity cards in the States of Assam, Mizoram and Tripura.

Illegal Immigrants From Bangladesh and Pakistan

3093. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated total of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Pakistan in the country till date; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to send them back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b): While the number of illegal migrants from Pakistan is not significant, there are a large number of Bangladeshi migrants illegally living in different parts of the country. It is difficult to estimate their exact number as they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population because of ethniclingual similarities.

The measures include intensification of patrolling by the Border Security Force, strengthening of its Water Wing, accelerated programme of construction of Border Roads and Fencing, strengthening of the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF)/Mobile Task Force (MTF) Schemes, issue of Identity Cards to people residing in border areas, computerisation of Visa Control System, etc. There are standing instructions to State Govts. and U.T. Administrations to detect and deport the illegal migrants.

Number of Foreigners in the Country

3094. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated number of foreigners in the country in general and in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tripura in particular as per latest assessment, and how many of them are refugees and how many are illegal immigrants; and

(b) what steps are contemplated to identify and deport the illegal immigrants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) According to liberalised Visa rules, foreigners are required to register themselves with the concerned Foreigners Registration Officers if they intend to stay in India for more than 180 days at a time. According to available information, 1,38,793 registered foreign nationals were living in India as on 1.1.92, out of which 17 are living in Madhya Pradesh, 8311 in Gujarat, 7858 in Maharashtra and 15 in Tripura. Besides these foreigners, 3,26,443 foreign refugees are also residing in India. As regards illegal immigrants it is difficult to determine the number of such persons as they enter India surreptitiously, mingle with the local population.

(b) As and when any illegal immigrant is detected, action under the Foreigners Act is taken by the State Government/ UT Administrations to prosecute or deport him. Such powers are vested in them.

Solving Political Problems of Nagas

3095. SHRI VIZOL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has any proposal for solving the Naga Political problem;

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for which there is no such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) In spite of two agreements with the Naga leaders in 1960 and 1975 and creation of a fulfledged State, some groups have still remained recalcitrant. Government's Policy has been, on the one hand, to deal firmly with those indulging in secessionist activities and, on the other, to encourage them to join the mainstream of the national life provided they accept the Constitution of India and shun violence.

Steps to Ensure Development in Law and Order in North Eastern States

3096. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government during the last 18 months for ensuring improvement in law and order situation in the North Eastern States;

(b) the details of results achieved so far State-wise;

(c) what proposals are put forward to ensure lasting peace, improved law and order situation and speedier development in these States; and

(d) the details of steps taken to check insurgency in North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The maintenance of public order is a State subject. The problem of insurency/ terrorism in the States of the North Eastern region is accordingly dealt with by the concerned State Governments for which all help and assistance are being provided by the Central Government. besides, the areas needing deployment of armed forces in aid of civil power have been declared as disturbed areas, and insurgent groups viz. ULFA, NACN, Meitie extremist Organisations and Bodo Security Force have been declared as 'Unlawful Association'. The Government's policy has been, on the one hand, to deal firmly with those indulging in secessionist activities and, on